

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP, BU

SUBJECT: POST LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM

FOR M/FSI AND EUR/EX

REF: A) A-8902; B) SOFIA 1998

1. SUMMARY: IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ESSENTIAL TO ITS EFFECTIVE OPERATION, POST NEEDS IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN FY 1975 ALLOTMENT FOR POST LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM. BOTH BULGARIAN REVALUATION OF LEVA AND INFLUX OF NEW PERSONNEL HAVE CREATED STRAINS ON POST LANGUAGE TRAINING BUDGET ALLOTMENTS. IN ADDITION, ALLOTMENT NO. 3225 OF DECEMBER 19, 1975, INDICATES \$100 LESS THAN ANTICIPATED FOR LANGUAGE PROGRAM. IF RELIEF NOT FORTHCOMING, POST WILL HAVE TO DISCONTINUE LANGUAGE PROGRAM PRIOR TO END OF JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTTEL B REFERS TO BULGARIAN LEVA REVALUATION EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1 WHICH RAISED DOLLAR COST OF FIXED LEVA EXPENDITURE BY 37.5 PERCENT. LANGUAGE TEACHER, WHO RECEIVES THREE LEVA PER HOUR, IN EFFECT NOW COSTS U.S.\$2.50 PER HOUR RATHER THAN U.S. \$1.83 AS PREVIOUSLY. NET EFFECT OF REVALUATION MEANS THAT FOUR MONTHS OF LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM MUST BE ELIMINATED IF COMPENSATING FUNDS NOT FORTHCOMING.

3. WITH LARGE INFLUX OF NEW PERSONNEL IN PAST FEW MONTHS, DEMANDS FOR BULGARIAN LANGUAGE TRAINING HAVE INCREASED. UNLIKE MANY COUNTRIES OF WORLD, ENGLISH IS NOT A COMMON SECONDARY LANGUAGE AMONG BULGARIANS, WHICH NECESSITATES A MINIMUM

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LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IN BULGARIAN OF 50 HOURS FOR MOST PERSONNEL.

IN ADDITION OUR OFFICERS, WHO ARE LARGELY RESTRICTED BY PREVAILING CONDITIONS IN OBTAINING NECESSARY LANGUAGE PRACTICE, FIND TRAINING ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN LANGUAGE CAPABILITY FOR THOSE SITUATIONS WHERE WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF BULGARIAN IS REQUIRED. THIS LATTER CONCERN REGARDING LANGUAGE PROGRAM IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AS IT AFFECTS WORKING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ENTIRE MISSION.

4. FSI ALLOTMENT NO. 3225 OF DECEMBER 19, INDICATES THAT POST HAS BEEN CUT US\$700 ON FY-1975 LANGUAGE PROGRAM FROM PREVIOUS FY. THIS UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT PUTS STILL FURTHER STRAIN ON LANGUAGE PROGRAM.

5. AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1974 POST HAS DRAWN US\$586.59 FROM A TOTAL OF \$700 OF LANGUAGE PROGRAM ALLOTMENT, LEAVING (AT THE NEW EXCHANGE RATE) LESS THAN ONE MONTH OF FUNDS AT PRESENT RATE OF EXPENDITURE.

6. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE FOLLOWING ALLOTMENT ADJUSTMENTS BE MADE TO INSURE THE CONTINUING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POST LANGUAGE PROGRAM.

(A) US\$100 TO INCREASE FOR FY-75 ALLOTMENT TO FY-74 LEVEL.

(B) US\$300 TO COMPENSATE FOR BULGARIAN LEVA REVALUATION AT OLD COST EFFECTIVE RATE OF \$800.

(C) U.S. \$400 INCREASE TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE PROGRAM BY FACILITATING REQUIREMENTS OF NEWLY ARRIVED AND ANTICIPATED PERSONNEL AS WELL AS MAINTAINING LANGUAGE ABILITY OF LANGUAGE OFFICERS UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED PARA 3.

7. I BELIEVE OUR LANGUAGE PROGRAM ESSENTIAL TO THE OPERATIONS AND WELL-BEING OF THE POST AND CONSIDER ABOVE BUDGET REQUESTS NECESSARY MERELY TO MAINTAIN EXISTING STANDARDS OF DESIRED LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY. IT IS NOT AN EXPANSION OF POST LANGUAGE PROGRAMS. WITHOUT IMMEDIATE RELIEF, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DISCONTINUE OUR LANGUAGE PROGRAM, AN EVENTUALITY WE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS.

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